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California RPF

#276



March 31, 2012

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

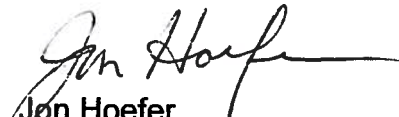
RE: South Shore Fuels Reduction Waste Discharge Requirements

Thank you for inviting me to comment on the discharge requirements proposed for this extensive project designed to reduce the potential for catastrophic fire in the forested areas around urbanized areas. The proposed requirements are comprehensive and at the same time formidable.

As a Licensed Professional Forester practicing for the past 35 years at Lake Tahoe, I have a great concern not only for the beauty and health of forests in the Lake Tahoe area, but also for the threat they present to the lake, streams, wildlife, aesthetics and other features of the area as well as homes and businesses due to potential wildfire. The South Shore Fuels Reduction Project is designed to reduce that wildfire threat, to maintain the health of the forest, and to retain the beauty of our surrounding landscape. I believe the practices of the USDA Forest Service, as presented in the Project Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement, to be sufficient to preserve water quality as well as the other environmental aspects addressed by the Lahontan Waste Discharge Requirements.

The lengthy and detailed nature of the Lahontan discharge requirements would cause me, as a trained, conscientious, practicing professional forester, to focus more on what is on paper than what I observe and respond to on the ground. I would fear more about the consequences that might be imposed by your agency if I violated the specifics of the discharge requirements, than that of the collective benefits to the environment my decisions and actions would put in place. Therefore, I view the discharge requirements as presented to be redundant to the Forest Service Plan and thus, because of an additional layer of regulation, a hindrance to the accomplishment of the objectives of the South Shore Fuels Reduction Plan. They should be simplified or removed.

Sincerely,



Jon Hoefer

Cc – Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit